

CS 317/09048/71

5 October 1971

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: American Journalists Held Captive by the VC/NVA  
in Kompong Cham Province

[REDACTED]

\* \* \* \* \*

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~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

1. As of 27 August 1971, two American journalists were being held prisoner by the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army (VC/NVA) in the Tapao plantation at WU 785330. Both had been held in the area since their capture, within two days of each other, in October or November of 1970. Both were captured near the Svay Antor airstrip at WT 4678 after having become separated from government units to which they had been attached. As of 27 August, both were in good health and were allowed considerable freedom of movement within the VC/NVA camp.

2. The older of the two newsmen appears to be between 40-45 years of age and is extremely tall. \* He has receding blond hair and blue eyes, and always wears untinted glasses. He has a soft-spoken manner, and speaks French and Vietnamese.

3. The second journalist appears to be between 20-25 years of age, is about 6'2" tall, and heavily muscled. He has a full head of short black hair, and has blue eyes. He also speaks French and Vietnamese. \*\*

4. Ever since their capture in late 1970, the two prisoners have been held at the headquarters of Khmer Communist (KC) Region 304. This headquarters is mobile, moving every several dyas to various points in the Chup, Tapao, and Peam Cheang plantations. \*\*\*

[REDACTED] Comparison made by [REDACTED] with a European male of above average height indicates that the newsmen is 6'5" or 6'6" tall.

[REDACTED] said [REDACTED] that they had identified themselves as U.S. nationals. [REDACTED]

\*\*\* [REDACTED] said that until the capture of the two Americans, Region 304 headquarters had been in a fixed location. It is not clear whether the capture of the Americans was a factor in the new policy of continual relocation of this element.

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

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